Establishment of a Central University at Gulbarga

1746. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has proposed establishment of a new Central University at Gulbarga; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up of 16 Central Universities—one each in equivalent number of such States as have no Central University—is in the process of being finalized. Karnataka being one of such States, a Central University is, thus, proposed to be established therein. Since the land for each such University is to be provided free of cost by the concerned State Government, the location of the proposed University in Karnataka would depend on the various sites as may be offered by that State. The Government of Karnataka is yet to respond to a reference in this behalf made thereto.

Government school students going for tuitions

1747. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that students of Government schools go for tuitions more than those in private schools;

(b) if so, whether education imparted in Government schools is not up to the mark; and

(c) whether this also defeats the goal of Government for providing free and fair education to all children across the board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Education is a concurrent subject and school education primarily comes under the purview of the State Governments. Government of India is not aware of any findings establishing that students of Government schools go for tuitions more than those in private schools. So far as the schools under this Ministry are concerned, there is no evidence to suggest that education imparted in these schools is not up to the mark. On the contrary, pass percentages in schools under Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, both at class X and XII, were consistently above the pass percentages in independent private schools affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) during the last five years (2003-07).

(c) No, Sir. Education in Government schools up to the elementary stage is already free. Central Government has been implementing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at the elementary level since 2001-02, *inter-alia*, with the objective to achieve universal elementary education by 2010 and to improve quality in Government schools. It has also been decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at the secondary stage during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.